Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02552 070741Z

17
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6449
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI/POLAD/J46 PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC/DSAA/ISA (EAPR) PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2552

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MARR MASS KS MO US
SUBJ: ROKG ENQUIRY RE POSSIBLE MILITARY SALES TO MORROCCO

SUMMARY: IN COURSE APRIL 2 CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER PARK INFORMED AMBASSADOR ABOUT RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM ON PROVISION KOREAN TRAINING ADVISORS AND MILITARY MATERIEL TO MOROCCO. FONMIN PARK ASKED FOR USG REACTION. DEFENSE MINISTER SUH APRIL 3 ALSO QUERIED AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN PARK TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO MOROCCO GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION MINISTER SIM HAD MET PRIVATELY WITH KING HASSAN, WHO HAD ONLY INTERPRETER PRESENT. HASSAN HAD REQUESTED ROKG ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES. SPECIFICALLY HE REQUESTED ABOUT FIFTEEN SPECIAL FORCES ADVISORS WHO ARE PARTICULARLY PROFICIENT IN USE OF HELICOPTERS, AND MILITARY HARD AND SOFT WARE. LIST OF MILITARY HARDWARE GIVEN TO SIM AND HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN PROVIDED TO EMBASSY BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. HASSAN TOLD SIM THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY "SENIOR US OFFICIALS" THAT US CLEARANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED, EVEN THOUGH EQUIPMENT INVOLVED THIRD COUNTRY SALES OF ITEMS PRODUCED IN KOREA UNDER USG LICENSE ARRANGEMENTS. HASSAN PROMISED IN RETURN NOT ONLY MOROCCAN SUPPORT FOR ROKG BUT ALSO PROMISED TO DELIVER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02552 070741Z

MAURITANIAN SUPPORT, ACCORDING TO SIM.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

2. LIST OF MILITARY HARDWARE REQUESTED BY GOM FOLLOWS (SOFT INCLUDES UNIFORMS, ETC.):

A. M-16 RIFLES
B. AN/PRC-77 RADIOS
C. AN/VRC-12 RADIOS
D. 60 MM MORTARS M19
E. 81 MM MORTARS M29
F. 90MM RECOILLESS RIFLES M67
G. 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES M40A2.

3. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL READING ON ABOVE LIST OF MILITARY HARDWARE WOULD INDICATE M-16 RIFLES AND TWO RADIOS APPARENTLY PRECLUDED AS PERMISSIBLE EXPORTS. BOTH MORTARS SEEM EXCELLENT EXPORT SALE CANDIDATES. AS PRECEDENT, ROKG RECEIVED USG PERMISSION IN 1975 TO EXPORT 81MM MORTARS TO CAMEROON.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE JUDGMENT HERE ON SALE TWO RECOILLESS RIFLES, BUT NOTE 106 MM RIFLE IS HAVING PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES AND 90 MM RIFLE IS ONLY AT BEGINNING STAGES OF INITIAL PROTOTYPING BY ROKG.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE ON REACTION TO BOTH PROVISION OF TRAINING OFFICERS AND MILITARY HARDWARE. BOTH FONMIN PARK AND DEFENSE MINISTER SUH TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ROKG ANXIOUS TO MEET AT LEAST PART OF MOROCCAN REQUESTS FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS, WHILE RECOGNIZING USG THIRD COUNTRY SALES PROBLEM. PARK ALSO ASKED FOR REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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